AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a biometric sample from a sensor;

transmitting the biometric sample from the sensor to a processing component;

processing the biometric sample by a first <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a first <u>reference</u> template;

storing the first <u>reference</u> template with an associated record identifier in a storage component;

processing the biometric sample by a second <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a second <u>reference</u> template;

storing the second <u>reference</u> template in a storage component; <u>and</u>

associating the second <u>reference</u> template with the record identifier.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

processing the biometric sample by an additional <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield an additional <u>reference</u> template;

associating additional <u>reference</u> templates with the record identifier; and

storing <u>the</u> additional <u>reference</u> templates in storage units.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a template from a requesting authority, wherein the request identifies the type of template needed to perform the match and a given record identifier;

determining from a plurality of storage units if the requested type of template is available for the given record identifier; and

transmitting the template, if it is available, to the requesting authority.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a biometric verification from a requesting authority along with a match template, wherein the request identifies a given record identifier;

locating from a plurality of storage units an enrollment template associated with the record identifier that is compatible with the match template; and

performing a template comparison between the match template and the enrollment template.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of returning the result of the template match to the requesting authority.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the algorithms are selected from the group of the following technologies: minutiae matching, pattern matching, vector line analysis, Eigenface and neural network processing.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the template creation process is preceded by an image pre-processing step wherein the image is modified according to information in a vendor profile associated with the algorithm.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the information in the vendor profile is selected from the group of following: image dimension, resolution, scale, speed, time, frequency, and orientation.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the vendor profile is created prior to the image pre-processing step based on features associated with a specific algorithm.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the image pre-processing comprises the steps of:

extracting several different sub-samples form the sample by means superimposing geometric shapes on the original sample wherein such geometric shapes correspond with the vendor profile; and

performing matches between templates created from the sub-samples and enrollment templates.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the geometric shapes are rectangles.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biometric sample is selected from the group of following items: fingerprint, facial image, iris image, retina image, voiceprint, DNA sample, hand shape, signature, and gait.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a fingerprint sample is captured on a livescan input device with at least 400 dots per square inch resolution.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the templates are enrollment templates.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the templates are match templates.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of performing a template comparison against a plurality of enrollment templates.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a match from a requesting authority wherein the request identifies a given record identifier;

locating from a plurality of storage units an enrollment template associated with the record identifier;

performing a template comparison between the match template and the enrollment template;

locating from a plurality of storage units a second enrollment template associated with the record identifier; and

performing a template comparison between the match template and the second enrollment template.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of using a weighting algorithm to evaluate the results of the different template matches.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of generating one final result as to whether there is a match between the person represented by the given identifier and the verification template based upon the plurality of template matches.

20. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the matches are performed on a centralized server.

21. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the matches are performed locally in proximity to the sensor.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

capturing a biometric sample from a sensor;

transmitting the biometric sample from the sensor to a storage component;

receiving a request for a given vendor's template from a requesting authority, wherein the request identifies the type of template needed to perform verification and a given record identifier; and

processing the biometric sample by the ~~appropriate~~ <u>given vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a <u>reference</u> template in the form as requested by the requesting authority.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of returning the result of the template match to the requesting authority.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of returning the template to the requesting authority.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of performing a template comparison between the verification template and the enrollment template.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a biometric sample from a storage component;

transmitting the biometric sample from the storage component to a processing component;

processing the biometric sample by a first <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a first <u>reference</u> template;

storing the first <u>reference</u> template with an associated record identifier in a storage component;

processing the biometric sample by a second <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield another <u>reference</u> template;

storing the second <u>reference</u> template in a storage component; and

associating the second <u>reference</u> template with the record identifier.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

processing the biometric sample by an additional algorithm to yield an additional template;

associating additional templates with the record identifier; and

storing additional templates in storage units.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for processing biometric information, comprising the steps of:

processing the biometric sample by a first <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a first verification template for a given user;

processing the biometric sample by a second <u>vendor's</u> algorithm to yield a second verification template for the same user;

performing a match between the second <u>vendor's</u> verification template and a previously stored compatible enrollment template associated with the user; and

upon successful match, storing the first <u>vendor's</u> verification template as an enrollment template associated the user.